CAEE in Jammu and Kashmir

3722. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) since when the Competent Authority Entrance Examination (CAEE) has been in vogue in Jammu and Kashmir for admission in the professional courses including the private educational institutions;

(b) whether the students of Jhelum Valley Medical College in Jammu and Kashmir, who did not face CAEE, are still permitted to continue their study; and

(c) if so, why the students of Public Research Institute of Multiplex Education (PRIME) Medical College, Budgam, Srinagar have been denied of continuation of their studies?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

People suffering from clinical depression

3723. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the figures of people suffering from clinical depression in the country who are in need of treatment;

(b) the details of plans to control this epidemic;

(c) whether Government will launch a National Mental Health Programme in the country to counter this epidemic; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) It is estimated that about 5% of the population suffer from depressive disorders. It is also estimated that about 25% of people who attend primary health care clinics suffer from various types of psychological problems. A majority of these people suffer from varying degrees of clinical depression. Therefore, an estimated 50 million people suffer from depressive disorders in the country. About half of these people are likely to be suffering from moderate to severe degree of depression and are in need of treatment.